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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

25X1

CD NO.

COUNTRY Albania

DATE DISTR. 5 February 1953

SUBJECT Tirana-Durres-Elbasan Railroad

NO. OF PAGES 7

25X1 DATE OF
INFO.

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

25X PLACE
ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. The Tirana-Durres-Elbasan rail line is of 1,135 meters gauge. The line has four or five locomotives including one Yugoslav and one Rumanian steam locomotive, one or two other steam locomotives, and one diesel locomotive from Germany. The diesel locomotive was in use for a time but was later taken out of use for an unknown reason. The line has about 20 passenger and freight cars. Some of them are from Rumania and some from Yugoslavia.
2. The locomotive operators were originally Yugoslavs, but they were replaced by Albanians as the latter were trained. Railway personnel are trained at Durres, and some have been trained outside the country.
3. The roadbed is in good condition and is constantly inspected by engineers.
4. The line has 1st and 2nd Class passenger coaches. The price of a ticket from Tirana to Durres is 50 leks 1st Class and 30 leks 2nd Class.
5. Further development of the railroad is not included in the Five-Year-Plan and is so far only being discussed. Also under discussion is the construction of a rail line to connect Kucove oilfield with the refinery at Cerrik.

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